

Mr. Vincent Bugliosi
663 Arbor St.,
Pasadena, CA 91105

7/29/99

Dear Mr. Bugliosi,

What your letter of the 20th suggests to me is that you are laying a foundation of a future misuse of it. If so, there is nothing I can do about that other than, and please excuse this directness, address you as other than the lawyer who has achieved such fame in that field but as a bewildered child.

In addition, it is full of suggestions that you are going to write about Oswald without knowledge of what the Warren Commission's published information says. You even question what I said, that all those who served in the role in which he ^U served testified that he had at least Secret clearance. I cited by name the officer under whom did that work and when you cite Oswald in New Orleans ^(rather case open) where do you get off pretending you do not know what testimony I referred you to or cited to you. I gave you the Donovan name and in that book I quoted his Commission testimony. All the testimony I referred to was the Commission's and my God man, if you could not recognize that how can you possibly believe you can write a responsible book about Oswald?

I told you that he and four others took ^{advanced} ~~advanced~~ radar training at Keesler Field and that all were assigned to that special duty. They, except for Schuyler, who was dead, testified that the clearance requires was at least secret, I'm not going to take the time at this stage of my life and with the added problems in it to look up their names for you or to cite that testimony. If you have the 26 volumes, which is a prerequisite for any responsible writing on the subject, you have no trouble finding it without asking an ill and feeble ^{feeble old} man or 86 to do it for you!

The problem is not as you say, that we are not on the same page. The problem is that you want to say what is placed in question by all of this and that you do not want to do ^{and} ~~and~~ about the existing official evidence you are underinformed. How you could presume to write a book about Oswald without reading the testimony of his marine mates - can't imagine in any way that leads me to believe that you have a responsible, factual book in mind. You know what you want to say and regardless of fact you are going to say it.

You even ask where Oswald's marine record are. They are in the 26 volumes.

Do you really believe that for the cryptographic part of that work the marines used anyone with the minimum security clearance? You demean yourself in this. CRYPTO meant access to the cryptographic. But that is not in any of those records relating to Oswald. As you can see for yourself if you have those 26 volumes that are indispensable in what you are doing.

When Oswald ^{defected} ~~arrived~~ the Navy in DC sent the embassy in Moscow a cable in which it told Moscow that Oswald records show no security clearance but he could have had Confidential. When the FBI went to the Navy after the assassination its report contained no reference to any security clearance. So, if you admit that he had a Confidential clearance you are also recognizing, whether or not you know it, that the Navy's records are not to be trusted on this. Sorry I can't use the basement stairs to get copies for you. But from your letter I do but I would anyway because it is clear you have made up your mind what you are going to say and have no intention of making any change in it.

Which, of course, is your right.

The Schrand inquest identifies the place in which those five, including Schrand and Oswald worked, as the Crypto van. Which as I recall it also said had been removed from the deck of a carrier. Or, the carrier had a need for it and had that need served.

When I was in the military nobody could enter a classified area without the proper security clearance so to enter the Crypto van required a crypto clearance. I was told, as I wrote, that it required a TOP SECRET clearance. That may or may not be the condition today but what is obvious from your letter, including its ~~one~~, is that for all your experience you have not just called up the closest Navy installation and ask if they still have Crypto clearances, what the prerequisites are and, if they know, whether they had special requirements in the late 1950s.

I wrote more than a sentence about this in Oswald in New Orleans, which you do not mention. I think I told you that I checked out all that could be checked out that my unidentified source told me and that all of it did check out.

You say that the Schrand inquest does not address any of this and you say that knowing better because it does establish that those five, of whom Oswald was one, did have CRYPTO clearance and that they worked in what it referred to as the crypto van.

If you wrote it seriously, you say much about your lack of responsible preparation for a responsible book in criticizing me for not sending you all that marines testimony about Oswald. If you were at all familiar with the Commission's relevant testimony you would not be asking that seriously, especially not of a man of my age, with all my physical limitations and problems and when at my age I am still writing and can hardly spare time for such things, would not if I could because your asking it discloses that you have a format

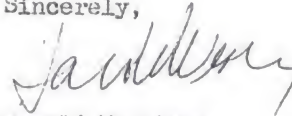
in mind and come hell or high water that is what you are going to do. Or contracted to do.

If you want to be a Manson of the mind you have that right but I feel sorry for you if you have gotten yourself into this kind of fix and with such ignorance as your qualifications.

I doubt you'll want to do it but if you'll read what Oswald ^{privately} disclosed his politics to be that the Commission published you'll find an encapsulation of them with citations to the Commission's published records. My recollection is that what I wrote began on about page 120 of my printing of Whitewash. (1945) He was anti-Soviet, anti -Soviet Communism and anti-United States Communism.

If you write books like I think a district attorney works you would have first sought what you regard as proof that Oswald was the assassin and that that rifle was actually fired that day in the assassination. An inexperienced lawyer could have beaten you in court on this.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg.

In reading this to correct my typing I see I forgot what you said about Newman. I gave him the Schrand record to read, offered to make a copy for him and he said he'd get it from the Archives. And I was confused about which of my books you read. I thought you'd said Oswald in New Orleans. There is mere slight mention in Case Open. And I've not had a single denial from any sources since Oswald in New Orleans was published in 1967. In all those FOIA lawsuits if what you want to believe had been true the ^Government/FOIA defendant could have used that to counter my affidavits and assault my dependability. It didn't and at one time in the Civil Division alone they had a crew of six working against me.